



Bureau of Land Management

Anchorage Field Office
6881 Elmore Road
Anchorage, AK 99507
<http://www.anchorage.ak.blm.gov>

**Categorical Exclusion
Campbell Tract Sled Dog Trail Reroute**

Applicant:
Case File Number:
AK-010-08-CX-051



Location:
T. 12 N., R. 3 W., Sec. 3, Seward Meridian
Campbell Tract, Anchorage, Alaska

Prepared By:
Douglas Ballou
Outdoor Recreation Planner
August 26, 2008

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM

CX No.: AK-010-08-CX-051

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: NA

Proposed Action Title/Types: Campbell Tract Sled Dog Trail Re-route

Location of Proposed Action: BLM Campbell Tract, Anchorage, AK

Description of Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to relocate the 300 feet of existing sled dog trail that parallels the science center access road to a new location approximately 30-50 feet east of the road. Winter maintenance of this trail segment became a problem after the science center road was expanded in 2004 which reduced the physical separation between the road and trail. As a result, BLM snow plowing operations on the science center road now regularly throw snow and gravel onto the sled dog trail causing safety and maintenance issues for the sled dog community.

The area to be relocated is on the east side of Science Center Drive immediately north of the Coyote Trail crossing. Utilizing volunteer labor on National Public Lands Day brush and trees in the proposed new trail corridor will be cleared to a minimum width of 8 feet. Approximately 30 trees, 4-10" in diameter, will be removed and sent to the science center to be burned in the biomass generator. Slash will be dragged and deposited in the woods 25 feet off the trail corridor. Due to existing grades on the proposed route, most of the new corridor will be suitable for sled dog trail use as is. Small areas portions of the corridor may require additional minimal leveling using hand tools and a Bobcat bucket.

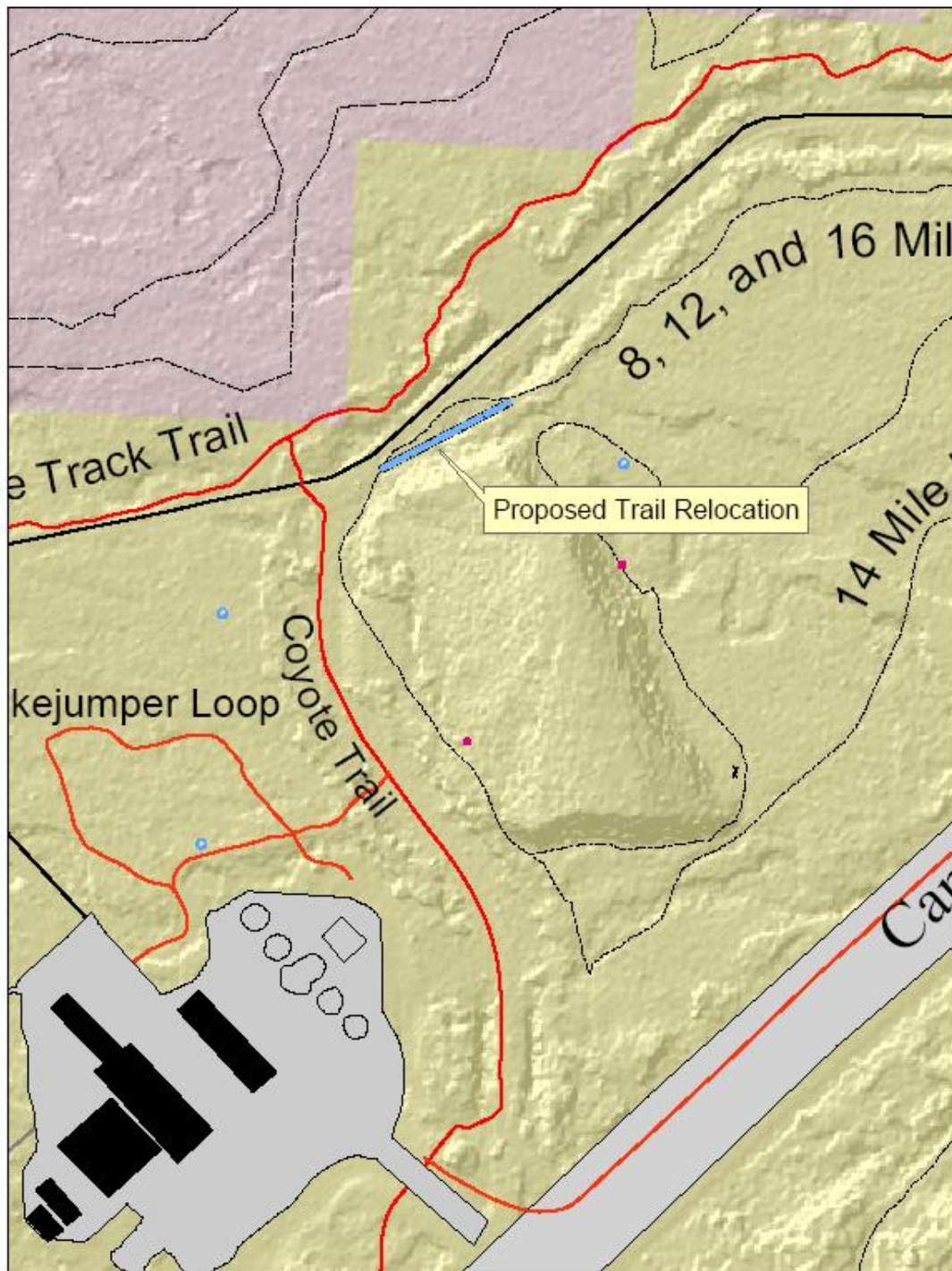
The proposed corridor is currently flagged with orange flagging.

The abandoned sled dog trail bed will be re-vegetated with topsoil and native grass species to match the current road shoulder vegetation. The site will be monitored for invasive weeds as the native vegetation is established.

Advantages to moving the trail include increased safety for sled dog teams, through a greater separation between the road and trail and reduced foreign material and snow accumulating on the trail. An additional benefit will be an enhancement of the visual experience for mushers and riders as the new corridor will screen the science center road from trail users.



Photograph showing current sled dog trail location adjacent to Science Center Drive.



Sled dog trail reroute location.

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: *A Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the BLM Campbell Tract Facility, dated June 1988.*

The trail re-routes are consistent with Action RM-4: Trail System Improvements on page 42 which states:

- a. Develop new winter trails south of the existing designated ski trail to provide for winter uses, including skiing, horseback riding and skijoring.
- b. Develop a South Fork Campbell Creek trail network, tied in with the existing de facto trails and proposed interpretive trails.”

The trail re-routes are also consistent with Action RM-5: Trail Maintenance on page 43 which states:

- a. Perform routine maintenance annually.
- b. Perform corrective maintenance as necessary, including drainage and trail hardening.

The Proposed Actions have been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5-3(a)).

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

The Proposed Actions qualify as categorical exclusions under 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, Part A, 1.7:

“Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance and replacement activities having limited context and intensity; e.g., limited size and magnitude or short term effects.”

and 516 DM 11.9, G (2)

“Installation of routine signs... on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan, or eligible for incorporation in such a plan.”

B. Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review.

The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents **MUST BE PREPARED** for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

| | | YES | NO |
|----|--|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety. | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| 2. | Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas. | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| 3. | Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]. | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| 4. | Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| 5. | Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| 6. | Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| 7. | Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office. | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-------|----------|
| 8. | Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species. | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 9. | Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 10. | Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 11. | Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007). | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 12. | Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112). | _____ | <u>X</u> |

I certify that none of the Departmental Extraordinary Circumstances listed in the above Part B (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action.

Preparer(s): Douglas Ballou Date: 8-26-2008

PART III – DECISION

The proposed actions are in conformance with a management framework plan or a resource management plan, 43 C.F.R. § 1610.8(a)(3) (2006). The Department of the Interior has determined and found that the proposed actions are within categories of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and that neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required, 40 C.F.R. §1508.4 (2006).

It is therefore my decision to implement the action, as described, with appropriate mitigation measures or stipulations.

Mitigation Measures/ Other Remarks:

Authorized Official: /S/
 Beth Maclean
 Acting Field Manager

Date: September 19, 2008